

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 11, as amended, are pending herein. Claim 7 has been canceled.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the telephone interview afforded by Mr. Lee for the purposes of discussing the invention and the relevance of the cited references, particularly the patents to Dickson and Giza.

Applicant's attorney re-iterated his position that neither Giza nor Dickson disclose a valve pin 30 capable of three-position operation to hold the center of a golf ball while the cover material is injected into the mold cavity around the valve pin (position 1, Fig. 3), allow complete filling of the mold cavity to fill the area vacated by the valve pin (position 2, Fig. 4), and close the gate to stop the flow of cover material (position 3, Fig. 5). The Examiner re-stated his position that Dickson discloses a golf ball mold device having a locator pin 22 operable between first and third positions and that Giza discloses a golf ball mold device having a valve pin 180 operable between second and third positions and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Giza by using the valve pin thereof to hold the center of the golf ball (i.e. assume the first position) as taught by the locator pins of Dickson. Applicant's response is that this is an impermissible use of hindsight, particularly given that Dickson preceded Giza by almost 50 years. Giza uses separate core pins 162 to center the golf ball core during molding of the cover layer. If Giza wanted to use the valve pin to perform this function, he would have done so. Yet, Giza apparently didn't appreciate or perceive of this benefit as has applicant.

Nevertheless, the Examiner noted that the references do not disclose or suggest the use of a vent pin 34 in combination with Applicant's valve pin and suggested adding this limitation to the independent claims. Since the vent pin was recited in dependent claim 7, it has been

canceled and the limitations thereof added to independent claims 1 and 11. By this amendment, all claims should now be in condition for allowance.

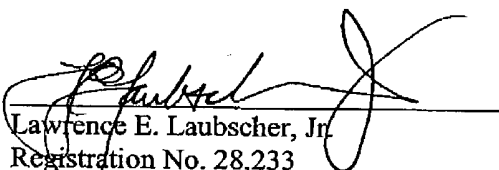
Since claim 7 was already of record, adding the limitation thereof does not raise a new issue of patentability and entry of the amendment is warranted.

Should the Examiner deem that further amendment to the claims would place them in even better condition for allowance it is requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Allowance of claims 1-6 and 11 is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

July 22, 2004

  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence consisting of 7 pages (including the cover sheet) is being transmitted to GAU 1732 of the United States Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number 703-872-9306 on July 22, 2004.  
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